NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING

WINTER GARDEN, Broadway. - IRRIAND AS IT WAS-WALLACK'S THEATEE, No. Sta Broadway.—Magic Man-

LAURA KEENE'S THEATRE, Broadway .- Seven Sons. NEW BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery .- JEAN RENT-BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery -STICKNEY'S NATIONAL

BARNUM'S AMERICAN MUSEUM, Broadway.—Day and

BRYANTS' MINSTRELS, Mechanics' Hall, 472 Broad HOOLKY'S MINSTRELS, Stayvesant Institute, No. 650

MELODEON CONCERT HALL, No. 539 Broadway, Songs, Dances, Burlesques, &c. - La Salta in Banio. CANTERBURY MUSIC HALL, 585 Broadway. -- Songs,

GAIETIES CONCERT BOOM, 616 Brondway. - DRAWING ROOM EXTRETAINMENTS. BALLETS, PANTOMINES, FARCES, &C. AMERICAN MUSIC HALL, 444 Brandway. - Songs, Ballers, Pantoniers, &c. - Romest Mary Airs. METROPOLITAN CONCERT HALL, 600 Broadway. -

CRYSTAL PALACE CONCERT HALL, No. 45 Bowery.-BURLESQUES, SONGS, DANCES, &C.-WILLOW'S VIGUES. PARISIAN CARINET OF WONDERS, 563 Broadway.-

NATIONAL MUSIC HALL, Chatham street.—Bunles-NOVELTY MUSIC HALL, 616 Broadway. - Bunlesques BROOKLYN MELODEON, corner of Court and Remset streets - Songs, DANCES, PANTONIMES, BURLENGUES, &C.

New York, Friday, December 6, 1861.

THE SITUATION.

The position of the army on the Potomac remains without change. An order has been just issued under date of November 25, by General McClellan, directing that all officers and enlisted men of the volunteer service now prisoners in the hands of the enemy, or reported as missing in action, or that may hereafter be taken prisoners or reported missing in action, be transferred to skeleton regiments, to be formed by the Governors of the respective States, and to consist entirely of such missing officers and men. The vacancies thus occasioned in the organized regiments will be filled by the Governors of the various States to which the regiments belong. The same order dismisses from the service Major Isaac Lynde, of the Second infantry, for surrendering Fort Fillmore, in New Mexico, to the rebels, in July last, the forces of the latter being inferior to his own.

Major General Halleck has issued an important order to his commanding officers in Missouri. directing them to arrest and hold in confinement every one found in arms against the government, or those who, in any way, give aid to the rebels; and ordering that all persons found within the lines of the army, in disguise as loyal citizens, and giving information to the enemy, and all those vice, shall not be treated as prisoners of war, but as spies, and shall be shot. He further orders that the Provest Marshals of St. Louis shall take in charge the numbers of Union families who are crowding into that city-having been plundered and driven from their homes by the rebels-and quarter them upon avowed secessionists, charging the expense of their board to them, on the ground that, although they have not themselves plundered and driven forth these unfortunate people, they are giving aid and comfort to those who have done so.

By way of Cairo we have intelligence of a reported battle at Morristown, East Tennessee, on Sunday last, between the Union forces under Parson Brownlow and the rebels, in which the latter were totally routed. The story comes from the Memphis papers, and they admit that it was a Union victory. Brownlow is said to have had a force of three thousand men, but the number of the rebels is not stated.

From another Memphis paper we learn that the rebel General Rains had cut to pieces the Union forces of General Montgomery, and taken the General prisoner; also that Ben. McCulloch had completely surrounded General Sigel at Sedalia, putting him in a very awkward position, between surrender and annihilation. Taking the same authority for what it is worth, we have the fact stated that the rebel General Price was advancing on St. Louis-having crossed the Gasconade riverthat the people were flocking to his standard, and that he would enter St. Louis with an army of sixty

thousand men! The Dublin Freeman's Journal, of the 20th Nocember, reports the object of Archbishop Hughes' visit to Europe thus:-The Most Rev. Dr. Hughes, Archbishop of New York, was among the passengers on board the Africa, which arrived at Queenstown on Monday. His Grace will stay a short while in this country, in order to obtain a sufficient number of Catholic clergymen to afford a chaplain to each of the Union regiments requiring one. He will then proceed to Rome to obtain the necessary power to grant faculties to such chaplains, so that they can officiate in whatever diocess the regiments to which they may be attached may happen to be.

CONGRESS

In the Senate yesterday Mr. Rice, of Minnesota asked and obtained leave to record his vote in favor of the expulsion of the traitor Breckinridge. Mr. Chandler, of Michigan, offered a resolution providing for the appointment of a select committee to inquire into the causes of the disasters to our arms at Bull run and Ball's Bluff. An amend. ment was offered to extend the inquiry so as to embrace the battles at Springfield, Wilson's creek

and the subject was then postponed. Grimes, of Iows, moved to take up the resolution to investigate the case of Colonel Miles, a division commander at the battle of Bull run. Mr. Grimes said that a court of inquiry had found that Colonel Miles was intoxicated to a certain extent-enough to justify Colonel Richardson in applying epithets-to him, but not enough to remove m command. He wanted all the facts of the case to go to the people. The motion was agreed to, but no further action was taken on the bject. Mr. Trumbull, of Illinois, introduced his bill for confiscating the property and giving freedom to the slaves of rebels. In a long speech in support of the measure, which we give in full in our report of the proceedings, Mr. Trumbull recapitulated the main points of the bill. The bill was ordered to be printed and referred to the Judiciary Committee. Mr. Clark, of New Hampshire, gave notice of an amendment to the Fugitive Slave law. The Senate then went into executive session.

In the House the standing committees were announced by the Speaker. The changes in the committees since the last session are unhaportant. Mr. Gurley, of Ohio, offered a resolution, which was adopted, directing the Judiciary Committee to aquire as to whether a censorship over the telegraphic despatches of the press has been estaished; if so, by whose authority, and by whom it is controlled; also to report if such censorship has not been used to restrain wholesome political criticism and discussion, while its professed object has been to withhold information relative to military movements from the enemy. The various topics of the President's Message were referred to the appropriate standing committees, except that part relating to the proposed seacoast and lake defences, which was assigned to a special committee. Mr. Blair's project of colonizing negroes in Central America was adopted in Committee of the Whole, then rejected by the House, but subsequently referred to the Committee on Foreign Adhirs. Mr. Lovejoy introduced a bill repealing all laws requiring passes of negroes going northward, to take effect immediately. It was referred to the Committee on the District of Columbia. A bill providing for the appointment of commission ers to revise and codily the general statutes of the United States was referred to the Judiciary Com-

Both houses adjourned till Monday. MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

The Cunard steamer Africa, which left Liverpool

on Saturday, the 23d, and Sunday, the 24th o November, is now almost due at this port, with three days later news from Europe. It is probable that the Africa will bring highly important intelligence, in the shape of advices reporting the first impressions produced in England by the news of the boarding of the steamer Trent by Lieutenant Fairfax, of the San Jacinto, and the arrest of Mesers. Mason and Slidell on board of that vessel, by the order of Captain Wilkes. This fact was announced in New York on the 16th of last month, about noon. In a few hours afterwards the steamship City of New York and Borussia sailed for Livernool and Southampton respectively, taking cut the main points of the communication as they appeared in the extra edition of the HERALD. Or the 20th of November the Persia left this port for Queenstown and Liverpool, having on board files ed letters containing all the particulars. Although the City of New York is a very fast vessel, we do not auticipate that she reached England before the 26th ultimo. She would not, consequently, have delivered her news until after the sailed; but, in our opinion, the British mail steamer La Plata, from St. Thomas-to which vessel the mails and remaining passengers of the Trent were

transferred-had anticipated her in that duty by making Southampton on the 23d of November. It will be borne in mind that Mason and Slidell were taken off the Trent, in the Bermuda channel, on the 8th of November. The steamer would, we think make St. Thomas from that point on the 11th. three days afterwards. Allowing her two days for the transhipment of cargo, passengers and mails, she would have left on the 13th of November, which would make her day at Southampton the 23d of last month, the day before departure of the Africa. Should this calculation prove correct, the Africa will bring us, as we have said, the reflection of the feeling prevalent in England immediately afterwards. If the La Plata did not reach Southampton on that day the Africa will not bring the intelence referred to. In such event we si by the Kangaroo, which left Queenstown on the 28th of November for New York. The despatches by the Kangaroo will be ample. They may reach by telegraph from St. Johns, Newfoundland, to morrow (Saturday), after the vessel has passed Cape Race. We would look pretty confidently for the arrival of the Africa, as well as the receipt of the report of the Kangaroo, this day (Friday), were it not for the prevalence of those heavy northwesterly winds and cross seas, which delayed the City of Baltimore so long, during the past

seven days.

Although the three French men-of-war, Pomone, Bellone and Catinat (corvette), still remain in our waters, being anchored off the Battery in the North river, on the other hand we are totally deoid of a British war flag. The Racer (British), six runs, commander Lyons, of which we gave full particulars in the HERALD of the 25th ult. has now left Quarantine. Her particular visit here was to receive despatches for the British authorities in the South, with which she sailed last Monday.

The following table shows the number of men now in the service of the government and battling for the preservation of the Union, the integrity of the country and for the preservation of the old Stars and Stripes against sedition, treason, insurrection and rebellion. The figures are taken from the official reports:-

Volunteers......640,637

It is said that the late ridiculous and begging proclamation of the rebel Gen. Price in Misssour was written by a man named Tucker, formerly editor of the Missouri State Journal. This man Tucker was indicted in St. Louis for treason, and gave bonds to appear and take his trial. He afterwards ran away, and left his friends to pay the

amount of his surety. There is some fault finding in the West because Brigadier General Thomas A. Morris, of Indiana is not assigned a command. General Morris was very successful in Western Virginia during his short campaign, but his whole force being three months men, when their time expired they left the service, and General Morris was thus forced into retirement, where he has since remained. He is a graduate of West Point, and has the reputation of

Unless the rebel blockade of the Potemac river s made more effectual the government will entire ly disregard it. Transports with troops and stores pass regularly up and down at the rate of half a lozen a day.

The hospitals in Washington, Georgetown and Alexandria contained, on the 29th ult., ten hundred and eighty-three sick and wounded soldiers, of whom two hundred and seventy-six belong to New York State regiments.

John Vanderzee, the member elect in the First listrict of Albany county to the New York Assembly, died on the 4th inst.

The Seventy-fifth regiment of New York State Volunteers, who were encamped on Governor's Island, were yesterday afternoon transferred in a barge to the steamship Paltic, lying at the foot of Canal street. She probably sailed during last

of the Mozart organization was held last evening at their headquarters. A full attendance was present, and several resolutions relative to the past election for Mayor were unanimously adopted.

The Chamber of Commerce held their regular monthly meeting yesterday afternoon, and adopted memorial asking for the Assay Office the privilege of converting into national currency the gold and silver deposited in the Sub-Treasurer's The subject of the recent depredations on American commerce on the coast of Europe also occupied the attention of the Chamber. A full report will be found elsewhere. In the Board of Aldermen last evening the ordiance from the Councilmen, appropriating an additional sum of \$500,000 for the relief of families associations to whom licenses for theatrical or

volunteers was adopted. The Mayor sent in a communication giving the names of persons and equestrian performances have been granted, and tating that all license fees have been paid into the treasury of the Society for the Reformation of Juvenile Delinquents. Considerable unimportant routine business was transacted, and the Board adjourned till Monday next. The Board of Councilmen were in session last evening and disposed of a good deal of routine

business. The ordinance adopted by the Board of Aldermen in favor of appropriating \$500,000 for the relief of the families of the volunteers from the city of New York came up for concurrence and occasioned a long debate; but it was finally adopted. As there were minor amendments made to the ordinance, it will have to be sent back to the Board of Aldermen for their action.

The Board of Excise will hold a special session this day, on the call of Commissioner Haskett. It is understood that the question of the qui tan suits will be brought up for consideration.

The second day's sale of books at the parcel sale at Leavitt's yesterday passed off well, prices in several cases being higher. A larger m of bidders was present, who bought fairly. The principal feature of to-day's sale will be the in voice of handsome ambrotype copies of fine engravings to be offered by C. Taber & Co., of New Bedford, and a few lists of stationery, &c.

In the General Sessions yesterday James Palmer was tried and convicted of passing counterfeit bills upon the Columbia Four Corners Bank, and sentenced to imprisonment in the State prison for five years and four months. Henry Handley pleaded guilty to an attempt at burglary, and was sent to the penitentiary for six months.

The schooner Robert B. Smith has been seized by order of the Surveyor, under the Confiscation act, two-sixteenths of the vessel being owned in Virginia.

The cotton market continued firm yesterday, and the previous day's advance was fully sustained, while the sales footed up about 2,500 a 3,000 bales, about 1,000 of which were taken by spinners. Prices closed stiff on the basis of 30c. per pound for middling uplands. The stock was becoming materially reduced, and estimated by some well informed persons in the trade not to exceed over 12,000 bales, and some persons reduced the estimated unt of available cotton in this market as low as 10,000 bales. This however, may be below the actus Baltimore imparted more buoyancy to flour, which was active, at an advance of 5c. a 10c. per bbl. Wheat was also active and firmer, and closed about 1c. per bushel dearer for good shipping lots. Corn opened firmer, bu closed at rather easier rates. Good shipping lots of Western mixed opened at 63 %c. a 64 %c., but closed at the inside figure. Pork was unchanged and sales moderate. Sugars were quite steady, while sales were confined to 366 hhds. and 70 bags. Coffee was steady, with sales of 2,400 bags of Rio at 16 1/2 a 17 1/2 c. Freights were steady, with a fair amount of engagements

The Rebellion-Signs of an Impending

It would not be surprising if this overtaxed rebellion in the South were soon to fall with a crash into a mass of ruins, like a ricketty old building with its supporting walls under mined. The immediate conspirators who precipitated this rebellion upon the South are the vagabond politicians of that section, and they have contrived to draw the bulk of the great slaveholding interest into their toils, under the delusion that the only safety to their slaves is a Southern confederacy. They have been strengthened in this idea by the incessant huc and cry of their own newspapers that "the usurper Lincoln" has entered into this war for the extermination of slavery, and our abolition organs have been doing all in their power to ish the administration to this extremity

But what is the policy of President Lincoln as set forth in his Message? His policy is to save the South with its institution of slavery, and not to destroy it. His policy is simply to restore the revolted States to the Union, and with as little injury to their people and their domestic institutions as possible. This Message will get among those people, and, though Southern confederacy politicians and planters may have passed beyond the reach of reason, there are seven hundred thousand non-slaveholding white men in the South who will have a word to say on the subject. This class is doing the beavy work of this war for Jeff. Davis. His soldiers, three or four to one, are from the nonslaveholding Southern whites. Poorly fed. badly clothed, and paid in worthless shinplasters, these soldiers, from all accounts, are already sick of the service of Davis and his confederates. The Southern "poor whites," as they are called, who are left at home, are not much better off. Thousands of them, in fact, are at the door of starvation.

Granted, then, that they are strongly attached to Southern institutions and Southern distinctions between whites and blacks we think it very probable that these "poor whites," when they get hold of President Lincoln's Message, will begin to think that this rebellion is a miserable delusion, that the longer it is continued the worse it will be for them, and that the Union as it was would be a great blessing. They will be assisted very materially to these conclusions by the kingly ideas of Governor Pickens, of South Carolina and by the late proceedings of the Virginia State Convention in favor of superseding popular rights and republican institutions in the South by a convenient elective oligarchy. South Carolina, under this sort of an oligarchy. has for thirty years past been under the control of half a dozen men; and we see the conse

South Carolina is the fountain head of this rebellion. Her Legislature is an oligarchy, and her people under it have become as submissive as the people of France to the edicts of Louis Napoleon. A few designing politicians have thus ruled the Palmetto State in getting reins of her Legislature in their hands; and after thirty years of this training her people, in the matter of this rebellion, may be pronounced incurable except by subjugation. But she stands alone. Had her secession movements of last December been snuffed out by Mr. Buchanan, we should have had no rebellion. Every other State in revolt was carried into her conspiracy by fraud, terrorism and usurpation of power, and in many instances-as in Virginia. North Carolina and Tennessee-against overwhelming popular majorities. Let us bring South Carolina to the terms of a military occupation, and we shall have taken off the control. and Lexington. The amendment was rejected, A regular meeting of the General Committee | ling head of this hydra of secession; and the city.

Union element in all the other rebellious States will rise to its own deliverance.

Already we are informed of startling signs of mutiny in New Orleans against the intolerable despotism of Davis. No other city of any nation in modern times, without being besieged or sacked by an enemy, has suffered as New Orleans is suffering the horrors of war. Where are the hundreds of steamboats, and the thousands of arks and barges, which constantly plied between her levee and the abundant stores of provisions of the Northwest, bringing down by millions of tons those stores to her merchants, in exchange for their cotton, sugar, molasses and imported goods? Where are the fleets of ships, going and coming, which, down to April last, whitened the outlets of the Mississippi river? All gone. For months not a steamer, barge or flatboat from the Northwest has gone down, and not a sail from the sea has gone up to New Orleans. Thus literally reduced to starvation, can it be supposed that the thousands of loyal men of that city will submit to the tortures of this monstrous rebellion much longer? We are satisfied that there will be very little, if any, resistance to our advance upon the city, and satisfied, toothat, what with starvation and what with the despotic tendencies of the rebel leaders, this whole rebellion is on the verge of a grand col-

President Lincoln's views in the Message upon the subject are intended as a shot between the wind and water of this projected Southern Confederate oligarchy. And we hope very soon to hear that he has hit his mark, and roused up in the South a popular revolt against this rebellion which will speedily bring it to the ground-

REDUCTION OF GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES.—At every session of Congress a proposition is made by some member who is desirous of obtaining a reputation for economy, looking to a reduction of the civil expenditures of the government. But it never amounts to more than the introduction or the reporting of a bill, and its being then printed and referred to the Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union-a tomb from which the chances of resurrection are of the flimsiest. In this or in some other way the responsibility of voting on the proposition is evaded, and every member can therefore continue to proclaim his great desire to cut down the expenditures. Already one of those inevitable propositions has been introduced by Mr. Frederick A. Conkling, of this State, and is now before the Committee of Ways and Means. Mr. Conkling proposes the following retrenchments:

1. A reduction of twenty-five per cent on all salaries, civil, naval and military, amounting to \$10,000 a year or over, including emolu-

2. A similar reduction of twenty per cent where the safaries and emoluments are over \$5,000 and under \$10,000.

3. Similar reduction of fifteen per cent or compensations between \$2,000 and \$5,000. 4. The reduction of salaries of members Congress to \$2,000 per annum, subject to a forfeiture of \$10 for each time that a member does not answer to his name on a call of the

yeas and nays, and the reduction of mileage to

ten cents per mile from the post office nearest

the member's residence to Washington city, estimated by the nearest mail route. 5. The absolute and total abolition of the franking privilege.

6. The cessation of the system of appointing supernumerary officials, and the reduction of the officials in all the departments of the government to the number actually requisite for the proper transaction of business.

On all the points embraced in this proposition we fully coincide with Mr. Conkling, except only in regard to the salaries. The salaries of the officials under our government, from that of President down to that of Custom House officer, are all too small. It would be better to increase than to diminish them. The President of the United States should not be confined to the pitiful salary of \$25,000, which is less th the average income of respectable lawyers in good practice. But to all the other abominations almed at-mileage, the franking privilege, and the swarming of offices with superfluous officials-there should be no mercy shown. They should be ruthlessly swept away. Why should members of Congress be allowed ten times as much for travelling as it actually costs them, or why should they have any exclusive privilege in the mails more than any other citizens? As they are supposed to pay for their boots and hats, so they should have to pay for their stationery and postage. Let there be no deadheads in the Post Office Department, whether they be members of Congress or newspaper proprietors. This is not the country for any exclusive distinctions, and it is certainly full time that all such should cease. Let the Committee of Ways and Means, then, report back such portions of Mr. Conkling's bill as lop off all these costly excrescences; but let them not do anything so foolish as to attempt to cut down the salaries of government officials. We hope, if the committee do report such a bill, that neither house will, by any parliamentary manœuvring, avoid coming up to a fair and square vote upon it. Let us see who are really in favor of cutting down judiciously the expenses of the govern-

RAILROAD JOBS .- Now that the elections are over there is a general rush after the special jobs for the next Legislature. Especially is this true in regard to the Broadway Railroad project, there being no less than three schemes for a railroad in that street. The managers of each are working night and day, preparing for a grand rush to Albany the moment the Legislature assembles. Our citizens may therefore look for a grand struggle for that prize with the Tribune, the organ of one clique, and the Times for another. The probable result will be, that after fighting each other until they are tired a compromise will be agreed upon, and the long coveted prize secured. The property holders along Broadway, who have so long fought the schemers, will have to bestir themselves, or a railroad will be forced upon them by the coming Legislature. The railroad philosophers claim that the complexion of the Legislature just suits their purpose.

THE HEALTH BILL REVIVED .- The parties who have for several years past been paying regular annual visits to Albany to lobby for the purpose of securing the passage of a Health bill, of powers numerous and extensive, are again on the move for the same project. We understand that they are now on a pilgrimage to the rural districts for the purpose of securing a pledge from the country members before they reach Albany, thus to insure its passage at an early day. In this the republicans hope to get control of one or two more departments in the

THE MAYORALTY ELECTION.—The success of the republican candidate for Mayor will being about numerous changes in the city government and already there is considerable commotion among the politicians and office holders in regard to the prospects in this line. The numerous rumors that are affoat in the city in reference to the probability of the success of Mr. Gunther over Mr. Opdyke originate from those who expect to be cut short in their offices as soon as Mr. Opdyke seats himself in the Mayoralty chair. It is an old game, and has been repeated a dozen times in this city, got up for the ourpose of diverting attention from themselves, and in hopes of really bringing about a change in the result. The same mode was resorted to when Wood was successful over Barker, the Know Nothing candidate; but in this case, as then, they will not be able to accomplish any thing. The plurality of Opdyke can hardly be overcome by any informalities discovered in the returns. The politicians may as well prepare hemselves for their fate, and such as are in offices where they can be reached by the new Mayor elect had better pack up their traps and prepare for an evacuation.

AMERICAN APPAIRS.-In a recent letter to the London Times, L.L. D. Russell states that our government is in favor of having our domestic troubles arbitrated and settled by foreign interference. This is of a piece with some of Russell's other fine stories. The idea of foreign arbitration originated with Governor Hicks, of Maryland, who wished the whole matter left to Lord Lyons, whose decision would have been as silly and ungrammatical as his letter to Secretary Seward. The Emperor of Russia also had a notion that he could arrange our affairs satisfactorily to all concerned; and Smith O'Brienand Grantley Berkley offered to do the ob for us very cheaply. It is not very likely that we will ask for foreign arbitrament when in the Senate, on Wednesday, a proposition by Silly Saulsbury, of Delaware, to appoint Peace loumnissioners of our own, was unanimously laughed down. So we are not ready to try to settle the matter peaceably ourselves, yet much less to allow outsiders to settle it. When we do wish strangers to interfere in our family quarrels we will let England know by some neans more reliable than Russell's letters.

L.L. D. RUSSELL AND FOREIGN ARBITRATION IN

How THE TRIBUNE ABOLITIONISTS AID THE REBEIS ABROAD .- Some time ago the Tribune published a letter from its Washington correscondent under the heading, "How Our Army is Not an Army." The letter contained statements that the rebel force on the Potomac was greater than ours; that the enemy had all along shown greater generalship than we; that our army was "mere mob," and that our whole military array was confused, disorderly and ridiculous. This letter was published in the Tribune of October 24, and we find it again, published conspicuously in the London Times of November 19, and doing its mean work of encouraging the rebels and discouraging the Unionists abroad, and of furnishing ammunition to English journals in the rebel interest. And yet the Tribune is perpetually prating of its own loyalty and the "rebel sympathics" of the Herald. The real rebel sympathizer is the Tribuna, which gives aid and comfort to our enemies at home and abroad, and which, by such malicious misrepresentations of our forces and their discipline, not only makes rebellion bolder, but fars the flame of foreign interference, which, it fondly hopes, will come, some day, to forcibly disrupt the Union, and thus rid abolitionists of any further "fellowship with slaveholders."

CAPTAIN WILKES AND BRITISH RETALIATION. By the steamer Northern Light we have received information that the West India agents of the British West India Mail Steamship Company have decided to refuse to sell coal to United States war steamers, by way of retaliation for the arrest of Mason and Slidell by Captain in some quarters this report, if true, is regarded as an avant courrier of the retaliatory measures England will take, and as an indication of the English opinion of the seizure. This is all nonsense. We have as yet received no information that the news of the arrest has reached England, and the action of the agents of the West India company is therefore only local, and the result of local pique, unauthorized by the English directors of the company. So far from John Bull, or the English steamship companies, making any trouble about this seizure, he will thank Captain Wilkes for allowing the Trent to proceed on her voyage unconfiscated. John Bull cares more for one vessel and her cargo than for all the Masons and Slidells on record and will doubtless be glad to be relieved of such traitorous intriguers. SECRETARY WELLES ON THE TRENT SEIZURE.

We publish this morning a congratulatory letter from Secretary Welles to Captain Wilkes and the officers and crew of the San Jacinto, thank ing them for the eminent service they have rendered the government by the arrest of the rebel emissaries Mason and Slidell. The point of this letter which deserves especial notice is its remarks upon the legality of the seizure. While some of our thin skinned journalists have been consulting Vattel, Puffendorf, Wheaton and a host of other writers upon international law, and laboring desperately to prove that white is white, Secretary Welles accepts the fact as indisputable, and assures the gallant Captain that, while he did his duty in arresting Mason and Slidell, he should also have seized "the vessel which had these public enemies on board," and reminds him that "the forbearance, excusable in this instance, must not be permitted to constitute a precedent hereafter for infractions of neutral obligations." This is the correct, common sense view of the case and inleed so obvious was the justice and legality of Captain Wilkes' act that the President regards t as a commonplace police arrest, and does not think it worthy of mention in his Message. The idea of England causing any trouble about the matter is ridiculous.

THE SHERIFF FEES .- We understand that a bill has been prepared, to be introduced in the next Legislature, on an early day of the session, reducing the bes of the office of Sheriff. The fees of that officer have already been reduced by the Board of Supervisors several thousand dollars. During the canvass preceding the State election the clamor was so strong that Supervisor Tweed, then a candidate for Sheriff, was farced to move the reduction of fees on the reports from some of the minor courts from fifty cents to thirteen, making a difference of several thousand dollars in the receipts of the office on that class of business alone. An attempt will be made to make still further reductions at Albony, and we are informed that the movers in the project contemplate including the office of County He was indicted upon the evidence of Mrs. Marks.

Clerk. We presume that the lobby, as usi have something to say about this, and perhaps decide the question, as in the past. Thus no sooner are the politicians out of one fight than they are forced into another. No peace for the

THE FAMINE IN IRELAND.—The suggestion which we threw out a few days since for the appropriation by Congress of a sum for the purchase of food for the relief of the starving poor of Ireland has met with very general concurrence from the press and public. As a measure of benevolence, it would only be a repetition in another form of the aid afforded by us to the poor of that country in the famine of 1846-47. Since then, however, the Irish people have acquired an additional claim upon our sympathy. Our adopted citizens of that nationality have throughout the present crisis of our affairs been mong the most devoted, unselfish and self-sacrificing supporters of the Union. There is no way in which we could so well attest our sense of their patriotic conduct as by allocating by a vote of the national legislature a m sufficient for the purchase of several cargoes of breadstuffs for the relief of their suffering kindred. Gaunt famine is stalking through the land, and before the slow machinery of English official aid can be brought to interpose it will have swept away thouse of its population. Whatever is to be done for their relief on this side should therefore done promptly.

It has been objected by some that, in the present ticklish condition of our relations with ingland, the passage of a vote by Congress for this purpose might be taken in the light of an insult. There may be something in this. Where there is a disposition to quarrel the best intentions are subject to misapprehension. Perhaps, on the whole, the better plan of carrying out the object in view would be by calling a public meeting of our citizens and inviting subscriptions. Our leading merchants should stir in the matter, and request of the Mayor to take steps to give effect to the feeling so generally manifested in regard to it. The example once set in New York, would be immediately followed by every city, town and village in the Union.

ELECTION CANVASSERS .- The instructions to the inspectors and canvassers of elections are, to say the least, exceedingly complicated, and not one man out of twenty who are appointed to those positions is able to understand or comprehend his duties. There are four sets of officials, viz:-Registrars, inspectors, poll clerks and canvassers. The instructions to this class of officials are all mixed up together in one book, containing some seventy-five pages; each official is obliged to pick out his instructions by bits in different portions of the book. The inspectors and canvassers are sworn in on the morning of the election: they are then handed their book of instructions, which they see then for the first time. Without a moment of time to examine their books, they commence their duties, and, after closing their labors for the day, sit down and read their book of seventy-five pages to see what their duties are. Since the returns for several districts have not been made up to this time, it is to be presumed that the canvassers are yet reading their instructions. This evil should be obviated by some simple and explicit instruction to each class of election officials, in such a short, succinct and comprehensive form as to be understood by any person in five minutes' examination.

SCHEMES OF THE POLITICIANS.—Since the republicans have succeeded in electing their Mayor there are symptoms of sharp practice being resorted to by the politicians. In the first place, the republican Mayor will go into office with both branches of the municipal legisla; ture opposed to him; and if he makes any ap pointments that do not please the Aldermen they will not be confirmed; and to retaliate for that refusal the republican Legislature will step in and aid the new Mayor. This will at once arou opposition between those two legislative bodies, and develope many new schemes but little thought of at present. On the other hand, should the Common Council pass any enormously expensive job, the Mayor will probably veto it, and if the Common Council manifest a disposition to pass it over his veto the Legislature will again be appealed to for power to attend to municipal legislative philosophers. Thus we have in the election of a republican to the office of Mayor a fair prospect of a general quarrel between the different branches of the city government, and we are not sure but that the city will be the gainer by it, provided that we have some effective legislation, and the power is given to the Mayor which rightly belongs to his office.

IMPORTANT FROM TENNESSEE. Reported Decisive Battle at Morristown.

Total Rout of a Large Rebel Force by Parson Brownlow.

&c.,

CAIRO, Dec. 5, 1861. A special despatch in the Memphis papers of the 2d gives an account of a great battle at Morristown, East Tennessee, between the Union forces under Parson Brownlow, and the rebels, which was fought December 1 in which the parson's forces were victorious. The rebol lespatch calls it the "first Union victory of the war." Brownlow had three thousand men. The rebel force is

ot ascertained. The rout of the rebels was total. The Memphis Avalanche of the 2d contains the follow

A large body of Unionists attacked the Confederate orces at Morristown, East Tennessee, yesterday, killing large number and completely routing them. Major General George Crittenden has arrived at Knox

ville to take command of the Confederate forces. NEWS FROM THE SOUTH.

Carno, Dec. 5, 1861.

The following items are from the Memphis papers of the

General Pressevant has a long communication in the Memphis Appeal, showing the insufficiency of the rebel defences at and above Memphis. He says that Columbus once lost the Unionists would have no trouble in marching directly to Memphis, and that Memphis is entirely lefenceless and indefensible. He calls upon every male citizen of the State to enrol, and threatens all who do not

The rebels are sending their cotton to Northern Alebama for safety. Coffee is quoted at \$1 per pound in Memphis, and none to be had; bacon 600. and other proisions in proportion.

Indictment of Radski.

FRESHOLD, Dec. 3, 1861. The Grand Jury come into court about sleven o'clock this morning, finding eighteen bills of indictment, among